

31st Fighter Wing: The U.S. Air Force's fighter wing south of the Alps

THE VIGILEER

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Aviano Air Base, Italy

Fly Bys

Wills

Airmen who need a will must fill out a will worksheet before attending a will-drafting appointment. Worksheets can be obtained in the legal office lobby or downloaded from the legal office Intranet Web site.

Due to the increase of will drafting for AEF 5/6, those who cannot make a scheduled legal assistance appointment must cancel so the legal office can substitute another Airman needing immediate legal assistance.

Santa Paws

Pet owners can have their pet photographed with Santa Claus from 3 to 6 p.m. today at the Aviano Veterinary Clinic. For more information, call Ext. 8485.

Turkish bazaar

The Army and Air Force Exchange Service hosts a Turkish-themed bazaar from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. through Tuesday between the base exchange and the post office. The market offers a wide range of items from hand or machine made carpets, to leather, gold and silver items.

Serbian delegation visits Aviano

By Tech. Sgt. Jerome Baysmore
31st Fighter Wing Public Affairs

A delegation of Serbian military officers and the defense advisor to the Serbian president Boris Tadic visited the World's Finest Sunday and Monday.

The Serbians were here as allies observing the 31st Fighter Wing's organization and readiness while strengthening international relations for the first time since the two faced off in Operation Allied Force over Yugoslavia in 1999.

"This is a 'return' visit because some of your F-16 pilots visited Belgrade [Serbia] in June," said Mr. Bojan Dimitrijevic, the Serbian president's defense advisor.

"We're building cooperation with U.S. Air Forces in Europe-seven years after the war. It's a huge step for both of us because former enemies are again friends."

Capt. Brian Perkins, 31st Operations Support Squadron scheduling officer, agreed. He piloted one of the first two F-16s to fly into Serbia on a visit.

"We flew to Serbia not knowing what to expect, but after we landed, we discovered the Serbians were open and genuine people—we wanted to stay longer," he said. "We also met some of their pilots and asked about their aircraft, but all it takes is one joke and we all realized that we're all about the same."

Captain Perkins said the trip was special because two Serbian air force MiG-21s flew to intercept them and then joined their formation.

See delegation, Page 13 —



Photo by Airman 1st Class Liliana Moreno

Tech. Sgt. Rusty Hayes, left, 31st Operations Support Squadron, shows Serbian air force Capt. Vladimir Ivkovic parachute techniques for an F-16 orientation flight Monday.

Flu shots: The 31st Medical Group is administering flu shots for dependents from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. today in the Base Exchange.

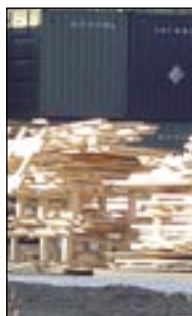
*World's Finest
MMVA/DUI counter*

27 Days ...

Since Aviano's last DUI.

36

Major Motor Vehicle Accidents



Savings

The 712th Munitions Squadron saved the Air Force time and money by finding ways to conduct business efficiently.

- Page 12



Unique city

Plenty of shopping, thought-provoking art, and beautiful cobblestone streets — Treviso blends modern style with history.

- Page 18



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Deadline info: The deadline for submitting information is close of business Thursday one week prior to publication. Send all information by e-mail to the Vigileer at vigileer@aviano.af.mil. Faxed articles will not be accepted by the staff. The public affairs office is located in Bldg. 1360, Rm. 19. The Vigileer staff can be reached at Ext. 7344.

Editorials: We want to hear from you. Flex your writing talents and share your thoughts with the community. Commentaries must be 500 to 700 words. Topics must be applicable to the Air Force, Aviano and appeal to the general public.

World's Finest: Messages can be submitted for appreciation, retirements, awards, good service, promotions and graduations.

From the Top: Those Who Lead

Letter to Airmen: Holiday Safety

The holiday season gives many of us the well-deserved opportunity to relax and celebrate with friends and family. But for some the holidays can be stressful, especially when heightened by separation from loved ones. This time of year includes unique opportunities for activities and emotions that we should be both grateful for and wary of.

We're asking you once again to keep a close eye on your Wingmen – your friends, loved ones and fellow Airmen - this holiday season, thus continuing to play an important role in preserving the Air Force's most precious resource – you.

Although we already put a lot of emphasis on safety, we can all do more to look out for our Wingmen. Eight of our precious Airmen have committed suicide this fiscal year. Many of these heartbreaking tragedies could have been avoided if Wingmen had intervened.

In FY06 we lost 45 Airmen to private motor vehicle mishaps and countless others were injured. Most of these could have been avoided with proper risk management decisions.

During this season, in particular, many off-duty activities carry significant inherent risk that can easily be compounded by exceeding individual capabilities, drinking alcohol, failing to follow proper procedures or wear the proper gear, and failing to plan for winter travel.

It takes leadership – both from individuals and the chain of command – to prevent needless losses. Leaders at all levels must focus attention on sound

individual decision making, a disciplined approach to risk management, and the importance of Educating, Motivating and Activating.

Educating means building the knowledge, skills, and character to behave safely and decrease risk exposure. Motivating means giving fellow Airmen the incentive to make the right decisions. Activating means providing the tools to act safely and ensuring each Airman understands the importance of making the right choice.

Ultimately, we can all make a difference, both for the friends and families of our Airmen and for the nation as a whole. Each life we save and each mishap we prevent translates directly into preserving combat capability for our nation. We are at war and need every Airman combat ready and in the fight.

We are grateful for the friends and family who understand and support your sacrifices, and wish them warmth and comfort this season under the blanket of security you provide. And we're grateful for Airmen who demonstrate that the defense of freedom is an unyielding endeavor and live by ideals that never take a holiday.

Today, nearly 700,000 total force Airmen are answering the call to serve as part of the Joint Team, defending our nation here at home or deployed a world away. Wherever your service takes you this holiday season, be safe, proud and certain that all Americans value and appreciate you. We remain amazed by what you do every day for our great nation. You have our heartfelt thanks.


 Michael W. Wynne
Secretary of the Air Force


 T. MICHAEL MOSELEY
General, USAF
Chief of Staff

USAFE leaders send holiday message

Chief Coleman and I have probably seen more Christmas holidays come and go while we've been in the Air Force than many of our young Airmen have been around. We're happy to report it hasn't diminished the joy we feel of sharing another holiday season with all of you. But this time grows more special as we continue the war on terror.

This is an appropriate time to reflect on our past year's accomplishments as well as look ahead with renewed optimism. We both share a deep pride and admiration of your tremendous accomplishments: supporting the transport of Americans during the Lebanon crisis, building relationships in Eastern Europe and Africa, continuing our vital role in Afghanistan and Iraq, and protecting the Riga Summit.

Because of you, many can look forward to the prospect of a safer and brighter future.

As we look ahead, we know we'll face another challenging year. We know you have what it takes to accomplish whatever unknown challenges and missions may lie ahead. You routinely make the extremely difficult seem easy, and that's what makes our USAFE team so great, and Chief Coleman and I are proud to serve with you.

Please remember our servicemembers who are deployed this holiday season. They, and their families, deserve our thoughts and prayers. For those here on the home front, please stay safe, cherish your loved ones and embrace those who are here alone.

Our time together in USAFE is special. Holidays seem to highlight that togetherness. We are glad for the opportunity to be a part of it with you.

Have a great holiday. You deserve it!


 General Tom Robinson


 Chief Gregory Coleman

New battle uniform available for AEF 7/8

WASHINGTON – The Airman Battle Uniform is on track for distribution this spring to Airmen deploying as part of Air Expeditionary Forces 7 and 8.

The new ABU has been in production since Dec. 7 and uniforms are being warehoused.

The uniform will be ready for distribution to Airmen deploying as part of AEFs 7/8. Most Airmen will get two ABU sets and two Desert Combat Uniform sets for their deployment.

Battlefield Airmen with Air Force specialty codes for combat rescue, special tactics, pararescue jumper, combat control, tactical air control Airmen, members of the special operations weather team, battlefield weather Airmen and explosive ordnance members will each receive four ABU sets.

By October 2007, the Air Force will begin issuing the ABU to Airmen in basic military training, and in

June 2008, the uniform will be available for purchase by the rest of the Air Force in Army Air Force Exchange Service outlets.

The ABU boasts 236 different size options in both male and female sizes. Additionally, its permanent press finish means the uniform cannot be starched, pressed or dry-cleaned. Airmen will be able to pull the ABU from the clothes dryer and wear it without further treatment. Any ironing could degrade the effectiveness of the uniform.

The cost for the uniform, pants and coat, runs about \$81. Additional items, such as socks, T-shirts, belts, and ABU-style hats will also need to be purchased. Airmen are authorized to wear DCU-style boots with the ABU until the newly designed green boots become readily available. The green boots are priced at \$100.

The expected mandatory wear date for the new ABU is October 2011.

New myPay features available

ARLINGTON, Va. – Defense Finance and Accounting Service officials announced several improvements have been made to myPay providing customers continued ease for on-line transactions.

A new feature has been added for military service members on the Savings Deposit Program that allows service members serving in designated combat zones an opportunity to deposit a specific amount of money in a high interest rate account.

“Service members can now request withdrawals from the account through myPay and we’ve added a link to the withdrawal form from the SDP statement,” said Pat Shine, DFAS’ director of Military and Civilian Pay Services.

Another improvement provides military service members access to a printer-friendly option. While all myPay customers can print their own LES’ and W2s from the web, the printer-friendly option allows for higher quality print copies of all documents.

Mr. Shine explained that myPay wants to keep customers up-to-date on new information and notifications related to their pay.

“We need current e-mail addresses to send pertinent information to our customers. A new myPay feature asks customers to enter their current e-mail address. Once on file, the system annually certifies the address to make sure it’s current.”

Mr. Shine added that maintaining the safety and security of myPay is a top priority. “We proactively implement new security features on a routine basis to protect our customers against identity theft and scams,” he explained. “The secure technology provided to myPay customers meets or exceeds security requirements in private industry worldwide.”

Holiday mail: Ensure holiday packages arrive on time by sending packages through express military service mail by Tuesday.

Almost there

Combined Federal Campaign ends, donations still accepted

By Master Sgt. Carole Steele
31st Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Today is the last day to donate to the 2006 Combined Federal Campaign and help the base and U.S. Air Forces in Europe reach their goals.

As of press time, the 31st Fighter Wing had raised nearly \$266,000 of its \$270,000 goal, pushing the campaign thermometer to 98 percent.

The base and most Air Force units typically exceed CFC goals, but this year was particularly challenging, said Maj. Yolanda Rogers, Aviano’s CFC Community and Area Project Officer.

“Last year we had a lot of disasters so people were more focused on giving and it was easier to solicit donations. This year it’s a little harder with finances seeming to be a bigger concern

“We still have a good chance of making our goal because of a lot of the little things that are rolling in right now ... I still have hope that we’ll hit that \$270,000.”

– Maj. Yolanda Rogers

[for Americans,] plus it’s close to Christmas,” she said.

“We still have a good chance of making our goal because of a lot of the little things that are rolling in right now,” she said. “I still have hope that we’ll hit that \$270,000.”

While USAFE has also struggled to meet its goal of \$16 million, Aviano is the command’s second-leading base for donations. “We’re hoping to hit first,” said Major Rogers. “We’re pretty close, only a couple thousand dollars behind the leading wing.”

Though solicitation of donations ended Dec. 1, base people can still turn in a contribution form to their squadron representative by close of business today. The leading squadrons will receive awards at the Wing Quarterly Awards Banquet Jan. 26.

“We would really like to thank those who did give; they helped us reach a 38 percent participation rate compared to last year’s rate of 34 percent participation,” said Major Rogers. “Without them, we couldn’t make anything happen.”

Aviano area tap water safe to drink

By Staff Sgt. Selina Hamblin
31st Aerospace Medicine Squadron
Bioenvironmental engineering flight

The 31st Aerospace Medicine Squadron's bioenvironmental engineering flight tested Aviano's drinking water for lead in November.

The annual drinking water test is required by the Italian Final Governing standards as part of the federal safe drinking water program.

Forty-one samples were collected from all base areas, and results indicated that all areas are in full compliance with standards.

Although the water is safe to drink, previous water sampling results for the base and surrounding areas indicated the potential still exists for old faucets and fixtures to leak small amounts of lead.

Lead usually gets into the water after it leaves local treatment plants. Water can absorb lead from lead pipes or from household plumbing as well as brass fixtures. The longer the water stands idle in the pipes, the more lead it can absorb.

The bioenvironmental engineering flight recommends not drinking or cooking with water that has been in plumbing for more than six hours. The flight recommends clearing the water out of pipes by letting cold water run for 30 to 60 seconds until the water gets colder. This allows the level of lead to reduce in most circumstances. Water cleared from faucets does not have to be wasted. It can be safely used for washing dishes or watering plants.

Hot water is not recommended to rinse out lead from pipes.

Lead sources

Lead is a common metal used in many consumer products. It can be found in lead-based paint, air, soil, household dust, food, some types of pottery, and water. If it is inhaled or swallowed, lead can build up in your body over time. Lead levels that won't hurt an adult can be very harmful to children. Smaller bodies can absorb lead more rapidly. A child's mental and physical growth can be permanently harmed by too much lead.

Drinking water is not our only source of lead exposure and it can be a problem for infants whose diets may be mostly liquids mixed with water, such as baby formulas or concentrated juices.

Hot water dissolves lead more quickly than cold water. People in need of hot water for cooking or drinking should take cold water and heat it. It is also very important not to use hot water for making baby formula.

Some water treatment devices can reduce the amount of lead in drinking water such as reverse-osmosis and distillation units. A few types of water filters can also remove lead. If interested in using such devices, check product pamphlets to be sure the National Sanitation Foundation has certified it for lead removal.

For more information, call the bioenvironmental engineering flight at Ext. 5532.

Status change: People who were recently married or had a child should update their SGLI. Call Ext. 7843 for more information.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Michael Holzworth

Sky patrol

First Lt. Aaron Johnson, 555th Fighter Squadron, conducts a preflight inspection for an alert F-16 supporting the Riga, Latvia NATO summit Nov. 29. The 'Triple Nickel' was on alert during the summit.

Eagle eyes

The Air Force Eagle Eyes program is an antiterrorism initiative that enlists the eyes and ears of Air Force members and civilians.

Always keep an eye out for suspicious behaviors such as:

Elicitation – Anyone or any organization attempting to gain information by mail, fax, telephone, or in person about military operations of people.

Suspicious people – People who don't seem to belong in the workplace, neighborhood, business establishment, or anywhere else.

Surveillance – Someone recording or monitoring activities, including the use of cameras, note taking, drawing diagrams, writing on maps or using vision-enhancing devices.

Security tests – Any attempts to measure reaction times to security breaches or to penetrate

physical security barriers or procedures.

Acquiring supplies – Anyone purchasing or stealing explosives, weapons, ammunition, uniforms, decals, flight manuals, passes or badges or the equipment to manufacture them.

Dry run – Anyone who is placing people into position and moving them without actually committing a terrorist act. An element of this activity could also include mapping out routes and determining the timing of traffic lights and flow.

Deploying Assets – Anyone who is placing people and supplies into position. This is the last opportunity to alert authorities before the terrorism occurs.

Suspicious activities can be reported to 31st Security Forces Squadron at Ext. 7200 or AFO-SI Det. 531 at Ext. 7642.

Aviano loses military working dog to cancer

By Master Sgt. Carole Steele
31st Fighter Wing Public Affairs

He entered the Air Force when he was one year old, graduated from two technical training programs at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, at the age of two, and arrived at his first duty station at Aviano in June 2000.

But by the mature age of eight, Arny the Military Working Dog succumbed to cancer. In between, he made a big impact not only at Aviano, but with the Secret Service, augmenting them throughout Europe for the 2006 Olympics and visits by dignitaries that included the President, First Lady, and former Secretary of State Colin Powell.

He is best remembered for his strong work ethic by his handler Staff Sgt. John Pillarella who was paired with the German Shepherd last November.

"He was always willing to work, always wanted to get out there. He never wanted to just lay down and fall sleep; he was always ready to go," said Sergeant Pillarella who bonded extraordinarily fast with his partner.

Noting that it usually takes at least a month for handler and MWD to solidly connect and become a team, Sergeant Pillarella said that he and Arny bonded within



two weeks. "It was the fastest I've ever experienced," he said.

Arny took great pride in his job performance and gave 'tail-tell' signs of the personal satisfaction he gained from it. "After we would finish a search, he walks away and he starts wagging his tail," said Sergeant Pillarella, who sometimes still speaks of his old partner in the present tense.

Arny's favorite reward for a job well done was his pink and black soccer ball. "We used to throw it around all the time, for a reward or just playing fetch,"

said his handler.

Arny didn't give up his job or his soccer ball during his two-year battle with cancer until the very end.

"He was never in any pain while he was working; it was one of those 'silent killers,'" assures Sergeant Pillarella. "He always still had that drive to work, even with the cancer. His sniffing abilities and his percentage rate for finding explosives always stayed at 100 percent. The cancer never affected his competence one bit."

When the recurrent malignant cyst on his right front leg finally took Arny, he was surrounded by his Air Force family.

"It was hard [losing Arny,] but I'd rather have him go like that than be in pain," said Sergeant Pillarella, who admitted it's still sad for him to go to the kennels and not have Arny there waiting, tail wagging; eager to go to work.

"He was a good dog, one of the best I've worked with in my career," he added.

Italian laws prohibit burial of the dogs, but they return home to Lackland for testing, according to Staff Sgt. Gene Fonseca, MWD trainer. "Maybe they can catch something that will save another military working dog."

Always the perpetual worker, Arny would surely be pleased to know that he's still serving his brothers-in-arms.

24 hour service: The Flightline shoppette is now open 24 hours and the Area One shoppette is open from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Legal office explains adoption process, reimbursements

By Capt. Tyson Kindness
31st Fighter Wing Legal Office

Adoption is the process of legally substituting a new parent or parents in the place of a biological parent or parents.

Adoption has significant legal consequences since it usually terminates any and all rights a biological parent may have, absolutely and forever, and transfers those rights without exception to the adopting parent. Any person, whether a minor or adult, may be adopted. Once finalized, an adoption is nearly irreversible.

There are two primary methods of adoption – a private adoption and an agency adoption.

A private adoption usually involves adopting a child that is already known to you. The most common private adoptions are step-parent adoptions. In these situations, a step-parent arranges to adopt his or her spouse's children that were born out of a previous relationship.

An agency adoption involves registering with an agency, such as state welfare offices, foster care programs, church organizations, commercial agencies, or placement services. The agency locates a child for the prospective parents to adopt and evaluates their suitability to serve as parents. The child then lives with the adopting parents for a trial period under close supervision to ensure successful integration.

To finalize the adoption, a court is required to make a determination that the parental rights of the natural parents should

be terminated and that the adopting parents are suitable for the adopted child.

Military members contemplating adoption may be reimbursed for some, if not all, of the adoption fees. The Department of Defense allows active duty military members to be reimbursed up to \$2,000 per child for qualifying adoption expenses in a calendar year. The maximum reimbursement to one Airman is \$5,000 in any calendar year. The adoption must be finalized before payment will be made.

To request reimbursement, submit a Reimbursement Request for Adoption Expenses (DD Form 2675). The Military Personnel Flight is a good place to obtain the reimbursement claim form, to assist in assembling the necessary expense receipts, and to guide members through the reimbursement application. It's important to know that members only have one year to file for reimbursement after the adoption has been finalized.

Members can also receive reimbursement for adopting a child under 18, foreign adoptions, and adoptions of children with special needs when these adoptions are arranged by a qualified adoption agency. Remember to research whether the adoption agency meets the qualification criteria for reimbursement before initiating the adoption process. Some of the covered expenses include public and private agency fees, placement fees, legal fees, limited medical expenses, and temporary foster care charges.

For more adoption and reimbursement information, call the legal office at Ext. 7843 or the MPF at Ext. 7216.

712th MUNS Airmen save time, money

**By Senior Airman
Colleen Wieman**

31st Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Airmen in the 712th Munitions Squadron, located at Camp Darby, are saving the Air Force time and money through several Air Force Smart Operations 21 initiatives.

The Airmen have come up with three innovative ideas that greatly lessen wear and tear on their unit's earth-covered buildings, speed up shipment processing, and eliminate excess waste while improving Italian-American relations in the area.

"We are completing renovations on our 40 earth-covered magazines," said Lt. Col. Carnell Cunningham, 712th MUNS commander. "These ECMs must have at least 24 inches of earth covering them or we lose 90 percent of the explosive storage capability for that ECM."

Colonel Cunningham explained that ECMs are buildings that are partially underground and covered with earth, resembling a hill. They are also called igloos or bunkers.

"To verify the depth [of the earth], the old method was to drive a piece of



Photos courtesy of the 712th Munitions Squadron

The 712th Munitions Squadron recently came up with a money-saving initiative to help recycle excess lumber it received in munitions shipments. The squadron donated the lumber to the local Italian airborne brigade who used the wood to build training towns and villages.

re-bar into the ground until you hit concrete or 24 inches, whichever came first," he said. "This practice would puncture the water membrane that helps keep the ECMs from leaking and reduce their life expectancy. We wanted to develop a non-destructive test to verify the depth."

The Airmen came up with a level marker plate to be installed on the top of the ECM and discussed their idea with U.S. Air Forces in Europe, which tested the idea at Camp Darby in October 2005.

"Part of the reason we were selected for the test was because we have wild boars routinely damaging our facilities," Colonel Cunningham said. "We are located inside of the San Rossore Natural Park and our ammunition storage area is home to approximately 700 wild boars that look for food in the ECM earth coverings."

Colonel Cunningham said the test was a success and the new procedures were published throughout USAFE.

Another successful AFSO 21 initiative that the munitions squadron implemented was the way it processes munitions shipments.

"Whenever we [prepare for a shipment], we have to plan for the number of containers that may be required," Colonel Cunningham said. "Some of our air-to-ground missiles can come in four different types of containers. The problem was the container type was never tracked, and we would always have to do a physical inspection of the munitions selected for shipment to make sure they would fit [when packed,]" he said.

"Our idea was to start tracking the container type in one of our automated systems. The idea was briefed at the USAFE munitions managers' conference and USAFE took the idea to the Air Force level. The idea has now been implemented Air Force-wide."

When munitions are shipped, they are packed with lumber for stability. Colonel Cunningham said the Defense Reutilization and Marketing Office would not accept lumber used for blocking and bracing as recyclable material so, to get rid of the lumber, the squadron had to pay to dispose the lumber in local landfills. Realizing this was costly, Colonel Cunningham said the unit decided to donate the lumber to the Italian airborne unit stationed in Livorno.

"Our squadron has always had a close relationship with the Folgore Brigade," Colonel Cunningham said. "The brigade used the lumber to build simulated towns and villages on their training range at no cost. They also built a 'claustrophobia maze' in their compound. Under the floor of a building built with our wood, is a stone-walled maze the soldiers have to negotiate in pitch darkness."

Colonel Cunningham said that the 712th MUNS is continuing to come up with more money and time-saving techniques.

"We need to find better ways to do business and to protect our limited resources," he said. "We are saving manpower and valuable dollars and are continuing to build on an excellent relationship between the Folgore Brigade and the 712th MUNS."



Senior Airman Brett Wertman, 712th Munitions Squadron, conducts an air-to-ground missile inventory. The squadron recently came up with a money- and time-saving initiative that allows munitions inventory to be conducted faster. The initiative has been implemented throughout the Air Force.

Delegation, from page 1

Mr. Dimitrijevic said the Serbian air force, which 15 years ago was one of the leading air forces in the Balkans, is in transition now. The Serbian air force is recovering from the loss of 70 percent of its infrastructure and about 150 aircraft during Operation Allied Force.

The one-time military conscript who spent time 20 years ago as a soldier guarding the border added that the trip to Aviano will help boost their air force's morale.

"Our air force was up-to-date in '91, but after 15 years and wars, we're trying to catch up," he said. "Right now, we have three to five pilots per each airworthy plane, and we need to overhaul our infrastructure."

Captain Perkins added that even though the 510th Fighter Squadron "Buzzards" were the designated hosts of the trip, his involvement was personal.

"We wanted to return the favor [after our visit to their Serbian base,]" he said.

During the visit, the older Serbian pilots logged flight time on the simulators while the younger Serbian air force pilots gained experience by riding in an Aviano Viper.

"It was amazing, and I'm still thinking of it," said Serbian air force Capt. Nenad Milojevic who flew Monday. "Watching the afterburner on takeoff was impressive."

Captain Milojevic added that he enjoyed the trip because it helps foster good relations.

"Pilots around the world are the same – we understand each other," he said. "It was good to put aside politics and aim for the future. It's the first step to improve on and continue our relationship."

Mr. Dimitrijevic said he hopes the cooperation between both countries increases.

"I hope our cooperation will continue through training and exchanging of troops," he said. "The whole world is ours – meaning yours and mine."



Above: Tech. Sgt. Rusty Hayes, 31st Operations Support Squadron, helps Serbian air force Capt. Vladimir Ivkovic, with his flight gear prior to an F-16 orientation flight Monday.

Right: Serbian air force Capt. Vladimir Ivkovic adjusts his aircrew helmet. Serbian Delegates visited Aviano to build a relationship between Serbia and the United States and understand how the Air Force organizes and operates missions.



Photos by Airman 1st Class Liliana Moreno

Staff Sgt. Daniel Daugherty, 510th Fighter Squadron, checks Serbian air force Capt. Nenad Milojevic's mask for leaks.



Gift wrapping

The Airman Leadership School class is hosting a Christmas gift wrapping and bake sale from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday at the Base Exchange. All proceeds will go to Operation Yellow Ribbon. For more information, call Ext. 5444.

Orphan Annie

The Aviano Community Theater and high school drama club present "Annie" at 7 p.m. today and Saturday. There will be a matinee show at 2 p.m. Sunday. Admission is \$5 for students and E-4s and below, \$8 for adults, and \$25 for families.

Christmas Cottage

The Aviano Officers Spouses' Club Christmas cottage is 3 to 7 p.m. Monday and Tuesday at the community center. All children ages 12 and under are invited to shop for their parents.

Children with last names beginning with the letters A-K are requested to shop on Monday and last names beginning

with letters L-Z are requested to shop on Tuesday.

Fifty percent of the proceeds will benefit Operation Yellow Ribbon. For more information, e-mail Teri Bosone at avianocottage@yahoo.com.

Trees for sale

Aviano Boy Scout Troop 323 will sell live holiday trees in front of the commissary from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. The money raised is used for troop activities. For more information, call Steve Laser at Ext. 8517 or 0434-96-1190.

AA meetings

Alcoholics Anonymous meets at 5:30 p.m. Mondays in Porcia. Participants who wish to carpool may meet between 5 and 5:15 p.m. in the Ovvio's parking lot. For more information, call 338-289-3234.

UMUC

University of Maryland University College Term III registration begins Monday for on-site courses and is on-

going for distance education. The UMUC office will close at noon Dec. 22 and remain closed until Jan. 2. For more information, call Ext. 5365.

Road closed

The road between the 31st Services Squadrons Bldgs. 248 and 256 in Area Two are closed Tuesday through Dec. 22 for underground electrical cable installation. Traffic will be routed through the adjacent parking lot and buildings.

POV inspections

POV inspections has moved next to the commissary and Bldg. 1459. For more information, call Ext. 1241.

Passenger terminal

The Aviano Passenger Terminal is closed Dec. 23 to 25 and Dec. 29 to Jan. 1 in observance of the Christmas and New Year's holidays. The terminal will reopen with regular duty hours from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Dec. 26 and Jan. 2. For more information, call Ext. 7680.

Essay Contest

U.S. Air Forces in Europe libraries are holding a safety essay contest. Essays must address safety awareness and issues for families living in Europe and must include two sources from the base library. The contest is open to all Department of Defense cardholders. Deadline for submission to the Aviano library is Jan. 26. Winners will be announced in the March 2007 Air Scoop magazine. For more information, including eligibility, rules and prizes, call Ext. 5893.

Air Force Aid

The Air Force Aid Society can help parents with the cost of tuition for their dependents. The General Henry H. Arnold Education Grant Program awards \$2,000 to selected applicants. For more information and qualifications, call Ext. 5407 or visit www.afas.org.

Thrift shop

The Aviano Thrift Shop is

closed Thursday through Jan. 8. While the shop is closed, customers must not leave any donations.

PME

Officers enrolling in the Air Command and Staff College no longer have to visit the base education center. To enroll, visit <https://ausis.maxwell.af.mil>. For more information, call Ext. 5330.

Project CHEER

Single and unaccompanied Airmen have a chance to win \$3,000 during a Project CHEER giveaway. Members can fill out an entry form through April 15. For more information, visit www.projectcheer.org.

Exams

Aviano's education center offers SAT and ACT exams for active duty members only. The SAT is available at 8:30 a.m. the first Tuesday of the month. The ACT is available at 8:30 a.m. the second Tuesday of the month. To schedule a testing appointment, call Ext. 5330.

Air Force Academy

Airmen interested in attending the Air Force Academy or prep school in July 2007 must submit an application by Jan. 31, 2007. Airmen must be single with no legal dependents and cannot reach their 23rd birthday prior to July 1, 2007, for the academy or their 22nd birthday before July 1, 2007, for the prep.

For more information or to talk with a guidance counselor, call Ext. 5330.

Bottle caps

People are encouraged to save plastic bottle caps to help raise money for the local cancer research hospital. People can place the caps in collection containers at the commissary, elementary school, kindergarten office, and the Airmen and Family Readiness Center.

People who would like to help deliver the bottle caps to the hospital may call, Tech. Sgt. Matthew Fisher at Ext. 7197 or 8012 or 0434-496-0224.

Reel Times

Today, 7 p.m. - "Employee of the Month" Rated PG-13 - Two co-workers vie for the coveted "Employee of the Month" award. Starring: Dane Cook, Jessica Simpson

Today, 10 p.m. - "The Marine" Rated PG-13 - A heroic Marine returns home from a deployment and discovers his wife has been kidnapped. Starring: John Cena, Robert Patrick

Saturday, 2 p.m. - "Everyone's Hero" Rated G - A young boy has a chance to become a hero and embarks on a cross-country quest. Animated

Saturday, 4 p.m. - "Everyone's Hero" Rated G

Saturday, 7 p.m. - "Deck the Halls" Rated PG - A suburban man angers his neighbor when he decides to create the biggest holiday light display in the world. Starring: Danny DeVito, Matthew Broderick

Sunday, 7 p.m. - "Deck the Halls" Rated PG

Monday, 10 a.m. - "Over the Hedge" Rated G - Forest animals wake up from hibernation and discover a large green thing has cropped up in their forest. Animated

Wednesday, 7 p.m. - "Deck the Halls" Rated PG

Thursday, 2 p.m. - "Santa Clause 3: The Escape Clause" Rated G - Santa must find a way to keep his new family happy and stop Jack Frost from taking over Christmas. Starring: Tim Allen, Elizabeth Mitchell

(Titles and times are courtesy of www.aafes.com, and are subject to change.)

Fly Bys

Local events

• A free comic book exhibit is 3 to 7 p.m. Tuesdays through Fridays, and 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 3 to 7 p.m. Saturdays through Sundays until Feb. 18, at the Convento di San Francesco in Pordenone.

The exhibit highlights graphic novels from the 1900s to today with more than 350 works. Two local artists famous for their "Diabolik" and "Nathan Never" series will also be at the exhibit.

• An Andy Warhol exhibit is on display through Jan. 27 at the Vecchiato New Art Galleries in Padova. For more information, visit www.vecchiato-arte.it.

• A nativity exhibition runs through Jan. 21 at the Arena di Verona. For details, visit www.presepia-arenaverona.it.

• Villa Santina hosts a Christmas market. For more information, visit www.comune.villasantina.ud.it.

• An Italian version of Santa Claus is distributing candy to children at 4 p.m. Saturday in Udine. For more information, visit www.comune.udine.it.

• A Christmas music concert is at 8:30 p.m. Saturday in Buttrio. For more information, e-mail giuseppenanunto@virgilio.it.

Call Ext. 7555 for more information.

When worlds collide

Treviso mixes old style with the modern to create unique artistic city

By Senior Airman
Colleen Wieman

31st Fighter Wing Public Affairs

When most people hear the name Treviso they think of the airport or a quick train stop along the way to their final destination. Treviso is more than a place to help get travelers from here to there, it holds a lively city within.

Treviso has an artistic flair with the old world interspersed with the new. Cobblestoned streets and gothic and renaissance era buildings surround the visitor while myriad shops, mainly selling Italian apparel and other nice things, are everywhere. It can be easy to get lost in this historic city center.

Luckily there are plenty of artistic landmarks such as old monuments celebrating someone in Treviso's history and modern art ranging from huge red dogs to what appears to be a large ball of wire with birds.

In almost every square, markets are held with vendors selling almost everything from paintings created by local artisans to regional food. Currently, there are also a few vendors selling holiday goodies.

Almost all of Treviso is pay parking, and available parking spaces can sometimes be far from the city's key sites. Walking through Treviso can also be tiring. The uneven and various terrain of the city's streets can begin to hurt some travelers' feet. It's best to wear very comfortable and sturdy shoes.

For those who are weary, there are plenty of places to relax and enjoy Treviso on the city's riverwalk. Along the river, which runs through the center of the city, there are benches and a few parks for visitors to relax and watch aquatic life or take a romantic stroll.

For the more culturally-centered visitor, Treviso has plenty of art museums and most cathedrals that boast beautiful frescoes.



Photo by Senior Airman Colleen Wieman

Visitors to Treviso may feel like they're in a maze because streets often look alike. Fortunately there are plenty of landmarks to keep visitors orientated such as this statue near Palazzo dei Signori.

Treviso is more than an hour's drive from the Aviano area, but it is well worth the trip. The city has a modern attitude with a historic personality that can delight almost all tastes.

For more information on Treviso, visit www.trevisoinfo.com. The site is in English.

Packing tips: Visit www.osac.gov/Reports/report.cfm?contentID=57961 for updates on airline carry-on luggage restrictions.



Photo by Senior Airman Alex Wieman

During the holiday season, the Vatican can get very crowded due to many people making pilgrimages to **Rome**.

Information, Tickets and Tours

Upcoming tours from the Information, Tickets and Tours office include:

• Saturday - Bolzano Christmas market and Ice Man Museum

• Saturday - Christmas market in Munich

• Dec. 23-25 - Christmas in Rome

ITT escorts ensure the group arrives and departs from destinations as sched-

uled and will do everything possible to make the trip safe and comfortable. Escorts also provide general information about the area.

Please note weather conditions and dress accordingly. The ITT staff recommends wearing comfortable shoes because most tours involve walking. Call Ext. 5072 or 5026 for more information.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Michael Holzworth

Cycling club challenges riders

By Senior Airman Sarah Gregory
31st Fighter Wing Public Affairs

For some people, there's nothing better than the hum of bike tires on the open road, a strong breeze to stay cool, and the burning of leg muscles pumping relentlessly toward the finish line.

For bicycling enthusiasts, the Aviano Draghi Cycling Club can offer that experience plus the added benefit of years of collective biking knowledge. A mix of competitive and leisure riders, the group has a pace for most riders.

"We started out just as a competitive group, but we felt the need to give back to the community because of the donation money we received, so we started a leisure program, too," said Jason Patton, 31st Maintenance Squadron.

The group offers cycling activities such as local mountain bike or group rides that are less intensive and shorter than normal training and competition rides.

"Anyone with any level of enthusiasm can enjoy this sport," said Patton.

Draghi Cycling evolved from a base-sponsored biking club to a private organization in 2003.

"Originally we had a base team that sponsored bikers to go to the U.S. Air Forces in Europe mountain bike races. But there were a handful of us that wanted to be more active in competitions, which meant it would be more expensive since most races are in Germany," said Patton. "We began holding fundraisers to raise money for things like gas coupons to offset travel expenses, but we couldn't do that as a sponsored group, so we registered as a private organization."

For those just looking to get outside for some exercise, the Draghi Cycling group offers a few ways to get started.

The group periodically has bike tuning clinics and safety checks for people to prepare their bikes for riding. It also hosts group bike rides in the local area that serve two purposes – getting people out riding and passing on the knowledge of bike trails.

"The core of our group participates in some heavy competition and people can be intimi-

dated by that, so what we try to do is get people involved in leisure rides that are set at a group pace," said Patton. "These rides are held about once a quarter and are advertised through the 31st Services Squadron."

Patton added that the rides also help familiarize people with area trails so that when current group members PCS, the knowledge isn't lost.

"One of the big frustrations for me, when I first got here, was I saw people riding all around but I didn't know where to go for good trails or how to get started," said Patton.

This frustration was one of the reasons he helped form the Draghi Cycling Club and its Web site which contains an event calendar, user blogs, a place to post potential group rides, links to other biking sites and resources about local trails.

With Aviano's location near the mountains and the nation's passion for biking, Patton said the Friuli region makes a good place to ride.

"Fortunately for us, you can ride pretty much year-round here – that's the great thing about being here," Patton said. "The weather is conducive to biking all year long, but the race season pretty much runs from March through October."

While the weather and geography may provide a ready environment for biking, Patton said physical conditioning is another key factor.

"The number one problem with people getting into the sport is that they start out too hard or they set their goals too high," Patton said. "Don't go out and spend thousands of dollars on bike equipment before changing your lifestyle to include biking. Start out with the basic gear and concentrate on increasing the frequency of actual outings and set small, reasonable goals."

In addition to exploring the area and staying in shape, Draghi Cycling offers people a way to meet others who share their love of riding.

"I have truly enjoyed the camaraderie with the other riders. The people I rode with are the kind of people I'll be friends with forever," said Patton. "Cycling attracts great people – fun, fit, and laid back, and because of that, I have enjoyed it even more."

For more information, visit www.draghi-cycling.com or e-mail Jason Patton at jason.patton@draghicycling.com.

Fly Bys

Basketball

Intramural basketball games are at 5:30, 6:30 and 7:30 p.m. Monday and Tuesday; 5:30 and 6:30 p.m. Wednesday; and 5:30, 6:30 and 7:30 p.m. Thursday at the Dragon Fitness Center.

Over 30 basketball is at 5:30 p.m. Monday; 5:30 and 6:30 p.m. Tuesday and Wednesday; and 5:30 p.m. Thursday at the Area Two Fitness Center. For more information, call Ext. 7459.

Swim fundraiser

The Aviano Sea Dragons swim team is hosting a bake sale and gift wrap fundraiser all day Sunday at the base exchange and Area One shoppette.

Volksmarch

The Aviano Road Runners are participating in a Volksmarch at 8:30 a.m. Sunday. The group meets at the Bar Municipio in Rovereto and heads to Bagnara di Gruaro and Nova Gorizia. If going to Nova Gorizia, a tourist passport is required. For more information, call Ext. 7692 or 7404.

Grifoni football

The Aviano Grifoni full-contact semi-pro American football team has openings for its 2007 season. For details, call Jerome Baysmore at 348-731-3388 or send an e-mail to avianogrifoni@yahoo.com.

Piancavallo trips

Project Cheer and Outdoor Recreation are offering free rides to Piancavallo. The first six individuals who sign up each week from Jan. 8 through Feb. 9 will receive a free ride on the Sunday after they sign up. The van will arrive at the resort at 9:30 a.m. and depart at 4 p.m.

Ski and snowboard equipment is available for rent at Outdoor Recreation as well as the purchase of ski passes.

For more information, call Ext. 8623.

Don't forget where you came from

By Chief Master Sgt. William Menhart
366th Operations Support Squadron

How many of you have heard someone say, "Don't forget where you came from?" You know this saying carries a lot of weight, especially within the military establishment.

The other evening I was looking for one of my most current enlisted performance reports and stumbled upon the first Airman performance report, or APR, I ever received. It was for 1981 through 1983, when I was just a snot-nosed kid. I don't believe the supervisors in my rating chain at the time thought they were writing about a future chief master sergeant; they were just trying to make an air traffic controller out of me.

The older I get and longer I stay in the Air Force, the more I focus on the patience and caring attitude my early supervisors had with me. They saw potential and they worked on developing and honing that potential into what, almost 25 years later, has turned into a fair and caring leader who can make a quick decision and balance the mission needs with those of the troops.

All too often, I see leaders give up on troops way too early. Some of them, I would say, forgot where they came from. Sometimes it's just easier to give up. With force-shaping initiatives on the table it's sometimes even more tempting to prematurely throw in the towel. With the towel, in some cases, also go some strong potential leaders because we didn't invest the time and or care a little more.

There is such a thing as a natural leader, but I believe even a natural leader needs schooling and mentoring. I also believe some people are not leaders; they are followers, and they fit the role well. All leaders need good followers. Most good leaders also started out as good followers.

The military, however, needs solid leadership, and we must find and develop potential leaders as early as possible. Don't forget the late bloomers; we must watch out for them as well. We have so much to learn and so many duties to carry out that the late bloomers are sometimes overlooked. A good leader, however, needs to look for them and give them opportunities to lead and excel as well.

Few of us who are leaders became leaders overnight. It took years of practice and some failures to develop into what we are today. We can't forget where we came from.

We can't forget the leaders and supervisors who took us

under their wings and took the time to care. They didn't always use the biggest hammer on us right off the bat. They took the time to explain, care and shape us into the leaders of the future. We must do the same.

Sometimes it took the "hammer" to get our attention, but a good leader shouldn't enjoy using the hammer. It shouldn't be the tool of first choice. Administering discipline is one of my most difficult tasks. I want Airmen to succeed and not self-destruct. Many of them won't go down the wrong street if they know you care. Make sure they know you care.

As a leader, you have two types of authority, legal and earned. Legal is given to you by the Uniform Code of Military Justice and various other publications and Air Force instructions. Earned authority comes from your troops respecting and following you because they know you care about them and their concerns as well as mission accomplishment.

Earned authority is the preferred type. Once you have reached this level with your troops they will follow you virtually anywhere. The Air Force always had leaders who had balance between earned and legal authority. They are the leaders who are fair, care about their people, know their people and still excel at mission accomplishment. I'm sure most of us have had a leader with this balance. Don't forget where you came from.

If there is one piece of advice I can give you as current or future leaders, it would be this: Take the time to care about your Airmen. It pays huge dividends by fostering teamwork to get this nation's mission accomplished. If you are up to the challenge, it will mean some long days because the day isn't over until your Airmen's needs are met. It means investing the time many have already invested in us. Don't forget where you came from.

Don't take the easy way out. If you do you may be doing the Air Force an injustice by overlooking some strong future leaders.

Our job as leaders – developing leaders as well as followers – is to leave our Air Force better than it was when we joined. We must look at our past to get to our future. Don't forget the strong leaders you have had in the past. Let's do all we can to develop even stronger leaders for the future.

We can never forget where we have come from as an Air Force or as individuals making up the strongest and most lethal military force this world has ever seen.

Don't forget where you came from.

Recognizing The World's Finest

• Congratulations to **Airman 1st Class Thomas Teeney**, 31st Civil Engineer Squadron, for the outstanding completion of his career development course.

• Congratulations to **Lamont Hall**, son of Senior Master Sgt. Claudette Watler-Hall and Master Sgt. Wilbert Hall, for being Aviano Youth Programs' Pre-teen for November.

• Congratulations to the following holiday postcard decoration contest winners:
1st place – **31st Contracting Squadron**
2nd place – **603rd Air Control Squadron**
3rd place – **31st Services Squadron**

Aviano Airman of the Week

Name: Staff Sgt. Rosa Bingham

Unit: 31st Security Forces Squadron

Job: Unit Personal Reliability Program monitor and security manager

Hometown: Ukiah, Calif.

Family: Husband and two Jack Russell terriers

Hobbies: Spending time with her husband

Why joined: For the educational opportunities

